

Burrillville

Recreation Commission

RE: Minutes, June 11, 2007

Present: Cheri Hall, Director Al Low

Kurt Schatz, Chair Juliette Lopez-Recinos

Al Gerew, Vice Chair L. Kevin McDonald

Alice Lavigne, Secretary

Michael Karmozyn-Town Council Liaison

Dave Marcotte

Absent: -----

Excused: -----

**Guests: Devon Phalen regarding the Skateboard Competition and
Steve Rawson, Conservation Commission Chair**

**Meeting called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Kurt Schatz, Chairperson, at
the Burrillville Parks and Recreation Offices, 92 North Main Street,
Pascoag, R.I.**

**Alice Lavigne recommended amendment to May 14, 2007 to remove
her designation from Vice Chair. Kurt Schatz recommended**

amendment to May 14, 2007 to add Secretary as Alice Lavigne's designation. Minutes of May 14, 2007 Regular Meeting were accepted with two amendments. Motion to accept made by Al Gerew. Seconded by David Marcotte. Motion passed 6-0.

Correspondence:

Alternate Recreation Commission Member

Kurt Schatz reported receipt of a letter announcing an alternate member to the Recreation Commission. The Director stated she was present at the interview with Susan Sgambato with the Screening Committee. Susan is a prior member of the Relay for Life committee and is very energetic and is employed by North Smithfield Senior Services. Susan Sgambato spoke with the Director regarding her concerns for a stand alone senior center in Burrillville and would like to be on the Senior Center committee. The Director stated that Susan Sgambato will be an asset as an alternate member to the Recreation Commission.

The Director stated her approval of the Screening Committee extending an invitation to the Department Heads to attend any of their board/commission appointment interviews.

Good & Welfare:

The Director displayed the plaque for receiving the Corridor Star

Award for Blackstone Valley for participation in the Burrillville Bicentennial events and the town's running of the Spring Lake Beach Facility, a key Blackstone Valley tourist attraction. The Tourism Council will be visiting the Spring Lake Beach Facility in August 2007.

Steve Rawson, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, presented to the Recreation Commission an idea that came about in 1988,1990, 1992 the voters supported matching funds for the Open Space Bond issue for the improvements to White Mill Park, purchased Spring Lake Beach, and for re-establishing the fields at Branch River Park. The Conservation Commission would like to start an initiative to bring back that issue during the next election.

The bond would be for six million dollar, two million to recreation, two million to open space and two million for easements to allow for large farm acreage. The easement would guarantee that if only one building on the property today, that would be all that would be allowed in future if the current property owner agrees, which is very popular in the state today to conserve open space. The Conservation Commission is requesting support for the Recreation Commission to assist in designating where the proposed two million would be utilized for recreation. The Conservation Commission will also be working with the Land Trust to aid in determining what open space might be designated.

The Director questioned whether with the current financial

environment with the bonding of Callahan School Project and the Library Project, if approval would be feasible. Dave Marcotte stated the Ocean State Power funding will soon be lessening which will force additional town budgeting. Steve Rawson stated that it could still be recommended for approval to allow for future projects. Since the town residents want to keep the town rural, this bond would aid in keeping the town as rural as possible. David Marcotte questioned the amount of six million being very aggressive. L. Kevin McDonald stated the amount of prior bonds have not been below five million. Bond monies can only be utilized as voted upon. If the Recreation Commission decides to support the proposal, it can be brought to the Town Council as a joint proposal.

A public forum meeting could be held on this issue between the Conservation Commission and the Recreation Commission to decide the approach to the Town Council for approval. The delegation is in the fall to get this bond on the ballot for the next election. Another issue is the state's requirement to build low-income housing which could effect utilization of open space. It was determined that the Recreation Commission is not enthusiastic but is interested in the bond proposal and suggests a joint meeting with the Conservation Commission.

Kurt Schatz recommended moving the Skate park Competition agenda item forward from New Business for Devon Phalen to make his presentation to the commission.

Skate park competition

The Director reviewed the proposal discussed at the last recreation commission meeting regarding Devon Phalen's proposal for a Skateboarding & BMX Event at the Skateboard Park. The Director left a message with the town's insurance company, The Trust, regarding the town's liability for the event with no response to date. She will contact them again if necessary.

Devon Phalen proposed a competition in August or September. He suggested holding the event in conjunction during one of the days of the Burrillville Art's Festival which is held the third week of September. The commission stated the Art's Festival might actually be moved from Freedom Park to another location due to the road construction on Chapel Street and East Avenue.

Devon explained that each applicant must be at least 14 years of age with a waiver being signed by the participant or a parent if they are under age 18. There will be two divisions, skateboarding and BMX. Juliette Lopez-Recinos questioned whether BMX bikes are allowed at the skateboard. The Director stated they are allowed but not at the same time as skateboarders. Devon stated skateboarders and BMX bikers would not be on the equipment at the same time. There will be an even number of riders with two rounds. Two skateboarders would

be paired against each other according to age, experience and skill. There will be a Board of three to five judges with each contestant having three to five minutes to compete being judged on consistency, form and difficulty of the tricks. Half the competitors will then be eliminated. If there is any injury or their board or bike breaks, then the other competitor automatically wins. Onsite paramedics at all times will be required from Harrisville Fire Department with Pascoag having to cover for them. Devon questioned what legal documents would be necessary. The Director stated that The Trust would make that determination. The entrance fee would be free for spectators but the entrance fee for riders would be \$10. The winners of the two categories, skateboard or BMX, would receive either a trophy or 10% of the proceeds. David Marcotte stated that any time you give money prizes, the competitor is then considered a professional and 1099 forms might be required. It was suggested by the commission that prizes like a new skateboard be given.

Al Gerew questioned restroom facilities, food and police coverage. Devon stated Police coverage will be a must, food is not required and portable restrooms will be required. The Director commented that any proceeds that were going to be donated to Parks & Recreation will probably be paid for the police, rescue and portable toilets.

Once the costs are estimated, the competitor fees and minimum number of participants would have to be determined to cover all the costs involved. The commission and the Parks and Recreation

Department are not looking to make or spend money on the event. It was also recommended that sponsors be sought. David Marcotte stated that time is crucial since the event would have to be approved by Town Council once the fees, insurance, etc. have all been determined.

David Marcotte recommended that the event be separate from the Burrillville Art's Festival would be better because that event draws a whole different crowd. The Director stated that since the event is sponsored by the Parks & Recreation Department, support might be given from the Harrisville Fire Department and Police Department. L. Kevin McDonald stated that it might be more cost effective to have the Harrisville Fire Department on-call versus on-site if The Trust allows it since the Harrisville Fire Department is located so close to the skateboard park. The Director also stated that Dr. Van Dyke has volunteered to be on site at other events. The event would be scheduled for a Saturday for 3 to 4 hours maximum.

Devon Phalen stated that he didn't think any of his age group would be committed enough to serve on an event planning committee. Since Devon is 17, it was recommended an adult assist with the planning. Devon will ask his father for him to serve as the adult committee member. The Director also stated for Devon to come by the Parks & Recreation Office for Carol Conway to assist in making contact with the local police and fire to help determine the costs involved. Saturday was recommended with a rain date on the

following Sunday.

Juliette Lopez-Recinos questioned if the Board of Administration would have to grant approval before the Town Council. Consequently, it was recommended the event be pushed forward to October 2007 to allow for proper approval and planning. Al Lowe stated advertising for the new Farmer's Market was placed in the Bargain Buyer, local papers, flyers and the town website. This event could do the same advertising along with at other skateboard and BMX locations.

A motion was made by David Marcotte to endorse the proposed concept for a Skateboard Competition as long the proper approval and procedures have been completed with the assistance of the Parks & Recreation Department. Seconded by L. Kevin McDonald. Motion passed 6-0.

Old Business:

Town owned land ordinance

The Director reported that the sub-committee met regarding the town owned land ordinance, field use fees and league budgets. A second memo was sent to the Town Manager regarding the request for the recommended park closings. The Director was told this issue is before the Ordinance Sub-committee, but they are in the process of

completing the trash ordinance changes at this time. The violation fine proposal for the violation of the alcohol or park closing has also been forwarded to the Ordinance Sub-committee. It has been recommended the Recreation Commission look at the whole ordinance versus separately because some of it is outdated. It is recommended another sub-committee meeting be held on Monday, June 25, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. to review the ordinance information. In the meantime, the Town Manager will request the Police assist with problems after dark at different park locations, such as Freedom Park, the Gazebo and the Skate Park until the ordinance changes are finalized. The Director requested the commission review the ordinance for any recommended changes.

League Budgets

The Director reported the budget proposal will be decided upon on Wednesday, June 13, 2007. The Recreation league monies are currently level funded. The reported league information has been placed into the league formula to compute each league's funding. The funding hasn't changed enough to change each leagues funding. Burrillville Figure Skating funding was allowed two years of extra funding after the league formula was put into place but this year Burrillville Figure Skating will be notified that they will only receive the amount formulated unless they can show extra funding necessary due to the rink renovations. David Marcotte questioned what fundraising is being done by Burrillville Figure Skating compared to other leagues. The Director reported that they currently fundraise

approximately \$3,000 per year but it should be noted the spread between the number of resident and non-resident program participation.

A motion was made by David Marcotte to forward letters to the leagues regarding the level funding allocations, with the exception of Burrillville Youth Basketball. Seconded by Juliette Lopez-Recinos. Motion passed 6-0.

A motion was made by Al Low to withhold funding to the Burrillville Youth Basketball league until they meet the funding requirements and a member of the league attends a Recreation Commission meeting to discuss these issues. Seconded by Alice Lavigne. Motion passed 6-0.

Dock at Spring Lake Beach

The dock from Regatta Dock Systems has been received but is not in the water yet to allow for the adaption of the lifeguard chair or installing a bench to the dock. New anchorage is still being installed. People have been requesting the old dock but it will stay at Spring Lake Beach unless the Recreation Commission decides otherwise.

Branch River Track

The resurfacing of the track is completed with reimbursement from

the State of Rhode Island being requested as soon as the cancelled checks are received.

Boys & Girls Club

Nothing to report at this time. The Town Planner will be forwarding the results of the survey for the next meeting.

Shippee Bridge

A meeting with the Town Manager Michael Wood and the Superintendent of Public Works Richard Bernardo on June 13, 2007 will be held regarding the project. A grant was received to make a park near the bridge with a scout volunteering for his eagle badge. Some community volunteers have also come forward.

The grant application was specific regarding the proposed changes to the park and the utilization of a scout. Richard Bernardo has stated that the date of the bridge renovations will also impact the project. Al Gerew stated that since his property abuts the bridge, the state told him there would be a temporary bridge installed where the new park would be constructed until the old bridge can be demolished. A recommendation will be made for a meeting to be held with Joe Diaz of the Department of Environmental Management, Department of Transportation, along with the Town Manager, Director, and Department of Public Works Superintendent to find out about a possible extension since these funds are suppose to be

expended by May 2008. The scout has been alerted of the problem.

League Budgets

Duplication of above.

Summer Concerts

A total donation in the amount of \$2,000 has been received from TransCanada with \$500 for 2006 and \$500 for 2007 for the summer concerts and \$500 for 2006 and \$500 for 2007 for the Road Race. The Director reviewed the entertainment schedule and noted that some of the entertainment has been donated.

Duck Race

The Duck Race is coming up on August 5, 2007 with 43 tickets sold at the Lions Club breakfast alone. Alice Lavigne was commended for her efforts for selling of the tickets.

Summer Beach Bus

Beach Bus flyers were shared with the commission. It was recommended that the Callahan Elementary school be the new location because of the construction in front of Levy School. The schools facilities manager will be contacted to approve the change.

Summer Program Flyers were shared with the Recreation Commission.

It was noted that the Director had sent Administrative Aide Carol Conway for further training on advertising publishing.

New Business:

Broadway Bound

The Director was approached to have the department sponsor Broadway Bound again this summer. Rehearsals will be at the High School with the show to be held at the Assembly Theatre.

4-H Pathfinders

The new adopt-a-spot at Freedom Park has been completed by the 4-H Pathfinders.

Meeting Adjourned: Motion made by David Marcotte. Seconded by Juliette Lopez-Recinos.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. Motion Passed 6-0.

**Next Meeting: Monday, July 9, 2007 6:30 p.m., Burrillville Parks and
Recreation Offices, 92 North Main
Street, Pascoag, RI.**

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